



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

AUGUST 2015
NO. 195

We believe in a Fridley that is a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

6431 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432
phone: 763-571-3450
www.FridleyMN.gov
e-mail: info@FridleyMN.gov

Mayor – Scott J. Lund

Councilmember-at-Large – Robert L. Barnette

Councilmember 1st Ward – James T. Saefke

Councilmember 2nd Ward – Dolores M. Varichak

Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann R. Bolkcom

City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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Summer Traditions Bring Community Together

“Friendly Fridley” is often referenced for our small-town feel within a big city, and summer is the perfect time to celebrate our town’s traditions.

Fridley ‘49er Days

A Thursday night parade helped jump-start the 41st year of ‘49er Days weekend of fun. Captain Bob Rewitzer led the parade fun, taking over the driver’s seat traditionally held by Fridley’s Director of Public Safety. Director Abbott stepped aside this year to honor Captain Rewitzer’s 26 years serving the Fridley Police Department.

Grand Marshal Karla Blomberg waved proudly from the familiar cherry red 1970 Chevrolet Caprice during the 85+ unit parade which included 4 marching bands and a number of royalty floats. Karla is the volunteer president and one of the founders of Wishes & More, a charity organization that grants wishes to children fighting a terminal or life-threatening condition. She was nominated and selected by the Fridley Lions.



Fridley fun continued at Commons Park with jumping, dancing, eating, singing and more! The new venue was a terrific success. Gorgeous weather, fabulous turnout, 5 live bands, animal friends and BINGO – now that’s a party! Fridley High School alumni gathered Saturday night at the all-school reunion, and the Chris Brooks Band closed it all down with street dancing until dark.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate ‘49er Days, and especially, to all the vendors and organizers who made the weekend a success.

Safety Camp

For 21 years, Police, Fire, Recreation and Allina Medical have come together to teach children invaluable life skills. One of the new topics this year was Internet Safety presented by the BCA – Internet Crimes Against Children. From how to escape a home fire, to basic first aid, to the importance of bicycle helmets, this 2-day event is always a hit. Who had more fun, kids or counselors? That may be a debatable question, but one thing is for certain – everyone was well fed!

A special thank you to our awesome volunteers: Margaret Tschaekofske, Dean Olson, Ann Bangen, Beth Fjerstad, Kathy Messer and Jessica Strange



George. We welcomed 132 kids this year. Despite the threat of impending weather conditions, the first day was picture perfect, and a little rain the second day was welcomed by all the campers.

Thank you to the generous businesses and organizations that donated to 2015 Safety Camp including Allina Health/Unity Hospital, Fridley Lions, Arctic Glacier Ice, Fridley VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Bob’s Produce, Kiwanis, Dunn Bros Coffee, McDonald’s, Fridley Flames, Perkins, Friendly Chevrolet, Frito Lay, Safe Kids Anoka County, Schmit Towing and Voigt’s Bus Company.

Without your support, Safety Camp would not be a success!



National Trails Day

A small, but dedicated group turned out to celebrate National Trails Day and our annual Fridley bike/hike event. Families enjoyed river-inspired art at the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts and lively music at Islands of Peace Park before hiking down to the river’s edge or riding along the trails. Look for an even bigger and better event next spring!

Summer Camps

Nature Camps, ROCKS, the Playground Program and Wednesday Field Trips kept kids busy all summer! From fun in the sun to creative art, there was never a dull moment. Fridley Recreation offers a great option for kids in grades K-7, perfect for working parents or to simply preempt the words “I’m bored.” The season wraps up this month, but we invite you to join us again next year! Sign up begins in April.



New Program to Help Fridley Business Owners

Looking for a trusted advisor for your business? Maybe you have wanted to secure financing to start or expand your business? If so, a new program offered by the City of Fridley may be just what you are looking for.



Thanks to a partnership between Anoka County and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD), business owners or those looking to start a new business can access a new program called “Open to Business.”

Free Technical Assistance

Open to Business will provide prospective and existing entrepreneurs with free one-on-one counseling with a business advisor. The program provides assistance in the following areas:

- financial management
- loan packaging
- business plan assistance
- real estate analysis
- marketing assistance
- strategic planning
- business regulations
- professional referrals

Small Business Loan Program

Open to Business advisors can also help entrepreneurs identify borrowing needs and access financing options. Advisors work with clients to help them find the financing that best meets their own unique needs. MCCD also provides direct financing and loans in partnership with banks and nonprofit lenders. Funds can be used for inventory, working capital, asset and equipment purchases, real estate acquisition, and start-up costs.

How it Works

Business Advisor Kathleen DuChene holds office hours on the second Tuesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Avenue NE.

For more information on the services offered or to schedule an appointment, contact Kathleen DuChene at 763-438-7315 or email info@opentobusinessmn.org.

For general information, visit the Open to Business website: www.opentobusinessmn.org.



Be Water-Wise!

Most of Fridley is located in the Anoka Sand Plain, so residents are growing lawn, trees, shrubs and flowers in fast-draining soils which dry out in mid-summer. While this is a good thing for helping to re-charge groundwater, maintaining traditional lawns and landscaping here drinks up a LOT of water. It might be time to evaluate our outdoor water use and landscape styles.

Re-thinking Lawn in Shade Helps Trees

Stop the endless quest to keep grass alive under tree canopies. Grass does not like shade and studies have shown that tree roots are reduced by lawn competition, creating big problems for trees in summer drought. The University of MN suggests replacing turf around trees with a wide circle of organic mulch and using native shade-tolerant plants to eliminate these shady problems.

Do You Need that Much Lawn in the Front Yard?

Lawn is water-hungry and chemical intensive, and needs mowing. In locations where we do not walk or play, why not trim out a nice chunk of lawn and give birds, pollinators and Monarch butterflies a hand? Plant native and non-invasive flowers and shrubs suited to our Mississippi River community.

Add More Mulch, Repeat

Hardwood shredded bark mulch around trees, flowers and in shrub beds keeps soil temperatures lower—reducing the need for frequent watering. It also reduces evaporation after a rain or when you do water. A bonus—organic mulches break down to improve soil structure—a triple win. But make those tree bark rings a LOT bigger. Think 8 feet, not 8 inches. It reduces lawn mower and string trimmer damage to tree trunks, too.

Dig in with Compost

Organic matter like peat moss and composted manure improves the water-holding capacity of sandy soils and balances the composition between air and minerals in soils. Work it into flower and shrub beds each year, because it decomposes gradually.

Soak Deeply to Water Wisely

Sandy soils, higher temperatures, winds, drought conditions, and new plantings require increased watering, so let’s maximize water use:

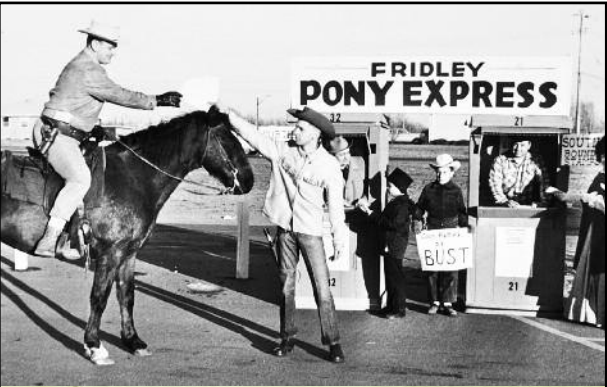
- Water early in the morning when evaporation rates are low.
- Deep soak—a slow trickle that saturates tree, shrubs, and flower beds is better than frequent, shallow watering because it results in better-rooted, more drought-resistant plants.
- Avoid water running down the driveway and into the storm drain by adjusting irrigation heads, also don’t leave sprinklers unattended.
- Irrigation system at home or work? Make sure there is a functioning water sensor. We all see irrigation heads spraying walks, the street or running while it rains, wasting precious water.

Save Rain Water with Rain barrels and Cisterns

Every big box store outdoor sales yard has rain barrels now and they are surprisingly effective if you put 100 of them in a neighborhood, so grab a few. And, Grandpa’s cistern from the farm is making a comeback for urban use.

Find out More

Visit us online at FridleyMN.gov/WaterWise for more water-saving resources.



Celebrate History

Join the Fridley History Center on Wednesday, August 12, starting at 6:00 p.m., as we celebrate all the organizations and businesses in Fridley that support us and so many others.

Enjoy music by the Fridley City Band and ice cream! Visit our website for details at www.fridleyhistory.org.

Fall is NOT the best time to fertilize. It is actually right now!
Early August through early September is the time to seed grass and repair those lawns.



Headed to the Lake?

Catch a great deal at Fridley Liquor and stock up on all your favorites.

And to “reel you in” save up to 50% with our monthly email specials. Sign up online at www.FridleyLiquor.com to get in on these exclusive deals!



Don't Wait Until Winter to Start Saving Money and Energy

Over 150 Fridley households are enjoying increased comfort and energy savings in their homes thanks to Home Energy Squad Enhanced. Even though winter seems far off, now is a great time to join them and get the benefit from energy efficiency year-round. The City of Fridley HRA is offering a 50% discount on these visits. Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits are available to you for only \$50.



During the two-hour visit, a team of trusted energy consultants will assess your home's energy efficiency. This will include a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks, an insulation inspection, a safety check of your heating system and water heater, and

the installation of energy saving materials. The installed materials are included in the cost of the visit and may include door weather stripping, compact florescent light bulbs, high efficiency showerheads, faucet aerators, a programmable thermostat and more! At the end of the visit you will receive a customized Energy Fitness Plan with a prioritized list of energy improvements.

Here is what a few Fridley residents have to say about the visit:

"It's great to have this program here in Fridley. It helps people understand how they're using energy in their homes, and the installation of all of those energy saving products really helps reduce utility costs."

"I was extremely pleased with the two representatives of CEE that came for my home energy visit. They were pleasant, friendly, and explained things very well. This is such a great program."

If you would like to save energy like your neighbors, call Beth at 612-335-5874 to schedule your visit today. For more information, go online to mncee.org/hes-fridley.

Home Energy Squad Enhanced is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy and delivered by the nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE).



Sewer Improvements in Fridley

When and Where?

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) will begin work this month on aging and deteriorating sanitary sewer facilities in Fridley. Work will take place parallel the railroad tracks that are west of University Avenue, from 73rd Avenue NE on the north end, to Mississippi Street on the south end of the project, and also west of the tracks at Hickory Circle. Construction areas will pass through the western edges of Fridley Community Park and Plaza Park. The work will be done in several stages and continue through September 2016.

Why?

The majority of the concrete sewer is approximately 50 years old and is showing signs of corrosion and cracking inside the pipe. Repairs will extend the life of the sewer for several decades, as well as prevent groundwater and stormwater from leaking into the sewer.

How will Property Owners be Affected?

The most noticeable impact will be detouring Rice Creek West Trail from the entrance to Community Park off of University Avenue and over to Mississippi Street NE. There also will be periodic restriction of traffic on 69th Avenue NE. Other impacts may include contractor equipment parking; extended work hours, including 24-hour operations during portions of the project; and lights, dust and some noise from pumps, generators and other construction equipment. There also may be a resin smell from the curing of the new sewer, and the potential for sewer odor related to the repair work. MCES (Metropolitan Council Environmental Services) and its contractor will work to minimize these odors.

Who Pays for the Work?

The cost of this project is not assessed to adjacent property owners. It is spread out among all MCES sewer customers in the metro area and built into your utility bill.

Use Caution and Stay Safe

Temporary wastewater pipes are pressurized sewers. If you notice any vandalism to these pipes or construction equipment, please call 9-1-1.

To ensure your safety, we ask that you, your children and pets stay away from all sewer repair areas and equipment.

More Information

Additional information about these improvements will be posted and updated on the MCES website: www.metrocouncil.org/sewerconstructionupdates.

Or contact MCES staff directly:

- Steve Vogl, construction contract manager, 651-602-8916 or steve.vogl@metc.state.mn.us
- Tim O'Donnell, project citizens liaison, at 651-602-1269 or tim.odonnell@metc.state.mn.us
- Jeff Schwarz, project manager, 651-602-8921 or jeffrey.schwarz@metc.state.mn.us

fridley senior center events

Green Book Fair

September 17, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fridley Community Center –
Open to All Ages
FREE

Come share your love of reading!
Bring in a book! Pick up a book!



Fall Kick-Off and Pie Social

September 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Including Flu Shots from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Registration Required! Call (763) 502-5150.
Space is limited.



Come check us out! Our Senior Program offers a wide range of activities for adults age 55+ including theater trips, card clubs, leagues, support groups, movies, and more. We have something for everyone!



Join us for our annual Fall Kick-Off and Pie Social. We will be showcasing the Senior Program, highlighting the program sponsors with a Resource Fair, and eating some yummy pie! Be the first to register for our fun fall events including the Dinner Theater, Veterans Day and the 40th Annual Holiday Dinner.



What’s New at Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts?

Pets on View (through August 22)
Featuring artwork from 8 artists of various mediums and subjects

Join us on August 8 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. for our outdoor Pet Expo!

Pet merchandise, pet art making, a pet photo booth and more! FREE and family-friendly, including family pets.

17th Annual Art at Rice Creek Festival
Sunday, September 13
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

20 artist vendors: jewelry, handmade jewelry, pottery and woodworking items

All-day entertainment including the Fridley City Band, Lady J and Her Root Doctors, and more!

Create art, explore with our Scavenger Hunt, try your luck in the raffle, and enjoy a yummy snack.



Saturday, October 3
9 am – 1 pm
Fridley Public Works
400-71st Ave NE, Fridley
(behind former Columbia Area)

Bring in your old electronics, appliances, cardboard, scrap metal, bicycles, mattresses and more!
Most items accepted for FREE; others for a small charge.

Watch for postcards coming soon!

Check the City website for details, www.FridleyMN.gov, or give us a call at 763-572-3594.

Anoka County Honors Fridley CEO

Laurent Deconinck, CEO of Machining Technology in Fridley, recently received an award for outstanding participation in the Anoka County Economic Gardening class of 2015. He was cited for “consistently providing insight and leadership” in monthly CEO roundtable discussions, a key element to the success of the Economic Gardening Program.

Deconinck purchased Machining Technology two years ago. As CEO, he expanded operations, invested in new equipment, and improved efficiency. The company recently added a second



Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad presents Laurent Deconinck with Outstanding Participation Award

shift to meet customer demand and improve lead-time.

Anoka County’s Economic Gardening Program, an offshoot of the National Center for Economic Gardening, supports entrepreneurs by connecting them to resources and offering them up to 50 hours of research — the type often only available to Fortune 500 companies. CEOs also participate in monthly roundtable forums to share ideas and discuss common challenges. There is no cost to individual businesses. Fees are covered by the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

A new Anoka County Economic Gardening group begins in September. Eligible businesses must:

- Have 10-99 full-time employees;
- Generate annual revenue between \$1 million and \$50 million;
- Be profitable at least two of the last five years;
- Have a motivated CEO who is committed to joining roundtable discussions for nine months.

For more information, contact Karen Skepper at 763-323-5709 or Karen.Skepper@co.anoka.mn.us.

Ding-Dong! Door-to-Door Sales in Fridley

Storms seem to have a habit of leaving a mark in Fridley. Whenever one rolls through, it is quickly followed by solicitors — phone calls, door-to-door visitors, flyers, etc.

It would be virtually impossible for us to regulate phone solicitation calls. Be smart. Do your homework. If an offer sounds too good to be true, be cautious. If you are uncomfortable with the tone, feel pressured or unsafe, hang up.

What is a solicitor?

The City of Fridley does what we can to regulate door-to-door sales. A solicitor is defined as an individual who comes up to your door, knocks and offers you a service or product. These types of sales people are required to be licensed through the City. Delivering flyers is not considered door-to-door solicitation unless that person stops to talk to the homeowner about their product.

Why require a license?

Your safety is our top priority. One of the key elements of obtaining a City license is the police background check. We check character, reputation and criminal activity, and if the background investigation comes up with red flags, we will not issue the license.

What should you do?

Anytime you are approached at your door or in your yard by a salesperson, you should ask to see their City of Fridley Solicitor’s License. You can also verify licensed solicitors online at FridleyMN.gov/791. If they don’t have one or you doubt their credentials, contact Fridley Police by calling 9-1-1. In Anoka County, 9-1-1 is used for both emergency and non-emergency reporting.



Businesses providing tree trimming or tree services, and waste haulers, also require licensing through the City of Fridley, whether or not they solicit to your door.

The best way to protect yourself from any possible scam is to do your homework. Use referrals from others; check references; confirm state license status for any residential contractor; look up history and reputation through the Better Business Bureau. Do not feel pressured and do not hand over payment without researching any unfamiliar company.

Helpful Resources:

MN Dept of Labor & Industry:
www.doli.state.mn.us

Look up construction license and read tips on hiring a contractor.

City of Fridley: www.FridleyMN.gov
Apply for a Solicitor’s License or look up city-licensed businesses

Better Business Bureau: www.bbb.org/Minnesota
Check on a company’s history, complaints and reputation.



The Warm Hearts of the Fridley Flames

Loving a firefighter can be tough. No one understands this better than Kathy Messer, president of the Fridley Flames.

“The members of the Fire Department have their comradery, their ‘brotherhood’, while the fire families are at home with all of the anxiety and worry, especially the newer families,” says Messer, who is married to Lieutenant Todd Messer of the Fridley Fire Department. They have been married for almost 18 of the 20 years that he has served with the department.

That worry and anxiety is a common thread for fire families, and a few years ago became the foundation for a new organization called the Fridley Flames. This auxiliary group provides a helpful and supportive environment for the families of firefighters. It also helps families be more comfortable and familiar at station events.

“We really want to alleviate stress and anxiety by bringing families closer together. To build bonds and trust in each other, as well as with the Fire Department and the officers who are in command of fire incidents and accidents that our loved ones are responding to,” explains Messer.

They do not stop there. Fridley Flames is more than a support group, more than a club with a common interest. They are active in fundraising and charity events, committed to giving back to the community that supports the firefighters they love.

They donate money to Safety Camp, a program committed to teaching school-age children valuable safety skills in a fun and encouraging environment. They make blankets and donate money to SACA.

They help Fridley schools with money for supplies and other necessities. In the spring and fall, they donate time: raking and yard cleanup with Chores and More, highway cleanup along University Avenue, volunteering at Springbrook Nature Center, serving meals at Family Table for Fridley United Methodist Church, donating neck wraps to Virginia Piper Breast Center, and providing meals to each other when families are struck with hardships, illness or the joy of a new baby.

A little closer to their hearts, the Fridley Flames also purchases additional emergency equipment that isn’t in the budget for the Fire Department. In the past, they purchased and donated 3 RIT (rapid intervention team) bags in case a firefighter gets trapped in a situation. Right now, they are purchasing new hoods for each firefighter in the department. Currently, firefighters only have one hood per person. By getting more, they can wash their dirty hoods more often and get rid of “who-knows-what” trapped inside them. The Fridley Flames are also purchasing a step that attaches from the fire truck ladder onto the rooftop, making it easier and more stable for firefighters to cross between the two.

Being a fire wife for 18 years, Kathy Messer understands the dangers. “It is so easy to get dehydrated in a very short amount of time.” Because of this, Fridley Flames also provide food, water, Gatorade and anything else firefighters need while responding to a fire or incident.

Come support the Fridley Fire Department and the community this September as the Fridley Flames host their annual Waffle Breakfast! Yum!



Annual Fridley Flames

Waffle Breakfast

Saturday, September 19
8:00 a.m. – Noon
\$7/person, Kids 5 and under free!
Fridley Fire Station 1: 6431 University Ave NE

The ZONE

Opens on September 8!
First week is FREE!

Beginning Sept. 14, daily admission is only \$1, or buy a 25-day pass for \$20. Open after school from 3:15 – 6:00 pm for grades 5-8, and Friday nights from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. for grades 7-9. Music, video games, pool tables, snacks and more! Come see why The Zone is THE place to be!

Key Dates:

October 2: Homecoming After Party
7th-9th from 8:00 – 10:30 p.m. \$5

October 9: Grandslam Field Trip
5th-8th from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. \$20

October 30: Halloween Party!
5th-6th from 3:15 – 5:30 p.m.
7th-9th from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.



EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF PUMPKIN NIGHT IN THE PARK AT SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER

Save the date for our most popular event. Buy your ticket now and save: \$7/person at event or \$6/person in advance. (Kids 2 and under are free.)

Carve Pumpkins with Us!
We welcome groups, organizations, families and all the volunteers we can get! Pumpkin carving times available October 11-15. Reserve your spot today by calling 763-572-3588.

Springbrook Nature Center
100 85th Ave, Fridley • 763.572.3588

Fridley Community Calendar

- August
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission
 - 4 Night to Unite
 - 5 Nickel Jamboree, Commons Park
 - 5 Appeals Commission
 - 6 HRA Meeting
 - 10 City Council Meeting
 - 11 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
 - 19 Planning Commission
 - 24 City Council Meeting

- September
- 1 Charter Commission
 - 2 Appeals Commission
 - 3 HRA Meeting
 - 7 City Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
 - 8 Environment Quality & Energy Commission
 - 14 City Council Meeting
 - 14 Parks & Recreation Commission
 - 16 Planning Commission
 - 28 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Municipal Center, 6431 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids and would like to attend a meeting, should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 at least one week in advance.

Goodbye Kona

After 5 years of faithful service, Fridley K-9 Kona retired in late May. Kona was one of the first two police dogs to join the Fridley Police Department in 2009.

Mayor Scott Lund declared May 26, 2015, K-9 Kona Day in recognition of Kona’s years of dedication to the community. His work for the City has been nothing short of exceptional. During his time on the force, Kona was deployed 435 times. This includes 71 trackings, 38 apprehensions, 57 area searches, and 111 alerts during 172 narcotic sniffs!

A typical police K-9 will serve an average of 8 years. Kona was forced into early retirement after being diagnosed with Lumbosacral Stenosis, a condition causing spinal pain and slower movement.

Kona’s handler, Officer Matt Noren, also resigned from Fridley Police and will be equally missed. Officer Noren will be joining the Woodbury Police Department to work with his wife. K-9 Kona will remain with the Noren family, and will now adapt to a life of love and fetch.





Fridley
Police present...
Citizen’s Academy!



Welcome Jax!

A warm welcome to the newest member of the Fridley Police Department: K-9 Jax and his handler Officer Tom Roddy!

We will catch up with them this fall after they complete training. Look for Jax’s public debut soon – possibly as early as the Fire Open House on October 3!

In Anoka County, 9-1-1 is used for both emergencies and non-emergencies.

Fridley citizens are encouraged to dial 9-1-1 whenever police, medical or fire personnel are needed. This includes incidents like excessive barking dogs, traffic situations, suspicious circumstances, loud parties, injuries or thefts.

Dial 9-1-1 from anywhere inside Anoka County any time you need to speak with a police officer or make a police report. **Please Note:** If you are calling from outside Anoka County to report an incident or concern within the county, call (763) 427-1212 for Anoka County Dispatch.





Save the Date!

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Annual
Fridley
Fire
Open
House

Bring the whole family to this fun-for-all-ages event! Meet firefighters, climb into a truck, try on gear, learn about fire prevention and so much more! Look for details coming soon online at www.FridleyMN.gov.

Fire Prevention Week is October 4-10: Hear the BEEP where you SLEEP. Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm.

This fall Fridley Police will open their doors to civilians with the 2015 Citizen’s Academy!

“It’s going to give you a hands-on, real in-depth opportunity to see the inner workings of the Police Department,” explains Fridley Officer Jim Mork. “This is your police department. You should know what we’re doing.”

We are lucky to have a tradition of partnership between our community members and the officers that serve our city, and we want to build on that relationship. The Citizen’s Academy is one way we can do that.

The academy dives right into the nitty-gritty. It covers hot topics in the news; the use of force; K-9 and narcotics investigation; patrol procedures; criminal investigations and more. Graduates will have the inside scoop on what’s happening with Fridley Police, and are encouraged to share that knowledge with others. The more they understand about the Police Department, the stronger our partnership will be.

The Citizen’s Academy runs September 2 through October 21 on Wednesday nights from 6 - 9 p.m. Classes are held in the lower level of Fridley City Hall. It is open to anyone, 18 years or older with no felony convictions, who resides or works in Fridley. All applicants are subject to a criminal background check. The academy is free, but space is limited. Please visit our website FridleyMN.gov/Police to download an application, or call 763-572-3629.



Water Rescue Makes a Splash

Fridley firefighters are technician-level trained for ice and surface water rescue. It used to be that most in-water emergency calls concerned incidences at Moore Lake and similar smaller types of water bodies. That is no longer the case. Recently, most in-water calls have been on the river—stranded boats, boats out of gas or stuck on rocks, and victim rescue. Many of these types of assistance require towing—a capability that Fridley Fire did not have, until now.

Firefighters are currently being trained on the operation, approach and recovery for their new RescueONE® boat purchased this spring. This boat will fulfill 3 basic needs for river rescue:

- 1. Towing containment boom
- 2. Towing boats and personal watercraft
- 3. Ability to quickly and safely perform victim rescue

Unlike the Zodiac boat previously used for in-water rescue, RescueONE® is rigid. The flat bottom is designed for the shallow river, and the 40-horsepower engine allows for towing/pulling. This boat can even pull a containment boom, a large piece of vinyl used for collection in the unfortunate event of a river spill. The larger horsepower also helps handle the river’s fast-moving current.

Approach and recovery of an in-water victim can be tricky in the river current. For that reason, firefighters train first with barrels to get a feel for weight and maneuvering. The front ladder/platform lowers into the water, allowing rescuers a stable way to get closer to the victim as they are lifted onto the boat.

Fridley’s automatic response agreement with neighboring cities (including Brooklyn Park, Columbia Heights and St. Anthony) means that additional help is always available. We can provide better service by implementing similar procedures and equipment. Fridley now has the same boat as Brooklyn Park. In terms of the river, boundaries are not important. We have better access from the south; they have better access from the north; and it is always preferable to have two boats deployed in any water emergency. By having the same equipment, we are able to work together more efficiently and even connect the boats together for a bigger platform, if ever required.

We look forward to providing the best response and service possible to our entire community.

Firefighter Kim Herrmann

Kim Herrmann is a familiar face around the City of Fridley. He started with Public Works over 30 years ago, was hired as a Fridley firefighter in 1988, and this spring he quietly retired. Despite his low-key exit, we cannot pass on the opportunity to thank Firefighter Herrmann for his decades of public service.

No doubt Kim will still be called upon for advice, especially for picture help, as his photography skills were popular in the department. He served with the department full-time for over 20 years and as Fire Captain since January 2009.

Kim kicked off his retirement with a ride around the Great Lakes with the International Association of Fire Fighters – Motorcycle Group. Not a bad start. He is no stranger to road trips, having joined the IAFF-MG on memorial rides over a number of years. His love of wheels aided him well throughout his career, as he assisted in planning for the purchase of many department vehicles, including the newest, Engine 3, dedicated into service about a year ago. Kim also took responsibility for the maintenance of vehicles, including scheduling pump and ladder testing.

Kim’s talents did not stop there. He also created many of the features in the web-based scheduling system currently used by the department for firefighters to bid and schedule shifts. Kim religiously monitored the shift schedule and made sure all areas were covered. As if those contributions were not enough, Kim was actively involved in the original design and ongoing maintenance for the regional fire training facility located in Fridley, and he was the last original Fridley member of the MN North Metro Chemical Assessment Team. He served as a Hazardous Material Technician and Specialist in several disciplines from its start in 1994.

When asking his fellow firefighters about Kim Herrmann, the word “kindness” was used without hesitation. Outside department activity, Kim was best known for his “random acts of kindness.” Small moments like plowing out driveways for fellow firefighters, organizing a smoke detector giveaway, and even serving hot dogs at Sam’s Club, stand out in his Fridley legacy.



AfterSchool

Programs at Hayes and Stevenson Elementary
Recreation activities to do when the school day ends. 3:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Back-to-School Special
Sign up for one class and get the second class at HALF price!



Mummy’s love the Halloween Party!



Kids love Soccer League!

Fridley’s Recreation After-School Program offers something for everyone! Check out our website for more information and class offerings.
www.FridleyMN.gov • 763-572-3570



Add Your Name to Springbrook

This spring marked the official kickoff to the Community Campaign of the SPRING Project, and now you can be a part of the Springbrook future.

Background

Over a decade ago, the SPRING (Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation) project was launched, a vision to revitalize the Springbrook Nature Center. Last year, the vision was given new life by being awarded a five million dollar grant from the State of Minnesota.

Fundraising

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, a non-profit organization led by volunteers committed to the preservation of SNC, has led the fundraising efforts. These amazing efforts and the contributions from businesses and individuals throughout the community along with the state grant, bring Springbrook up to 86% of their fundraising objective. Now the goal is to raise \$200,000 through the Community Campaign, a donor-recognition program.

Vision

Imagine walking up to Springbrook through a dramatic entrance filled with large sculptures to

create the park’s wetlands with huge cattails, frogs, ducks and turtles. Experience new interactive exhibits. Host a wedding or special event in the expanded hall. Take a pause in the landscaped memorial plaza. Listen to entertainment or simply the sounds of nature in the amphitheater. Enjoy an afternoon with family in the new picnic pavilion and nature-based play area.

You Can Be Part of Springbrook

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation has launched an exciting new Community Campaign that allows you to be part of the SNC vision. The new donor recognition program allows you to give tribute to a loved one, celebrate a special person or event, or recognize your business. Through this special program, donors will have the opportunity to add their name to the project by purchasing a paver, tree, bench or other select items that will become a permanent part of the new center.

Trees: Recognition will be added to a centrally located, shared marker that will be installed outdoors in a prominent location near the entrance. City of Fridley staff will select specific tree varieties appropriate for our climate and will plant them in the spring or fall.

Benches: A park bench is a wonderful way to honor a special someone or event! These 6-foot benches will include a recognition marker with up to 3 lines of personalization.

Pavers: Help pave the way to our new center by donating a recognition paver. Offered in 4 different sizes, each one allows you to leave a lasting impression on Springbrook with 4-6 lines of text (depending on paver size).

For more information on how you can donate to the SPRING project with the purchase of a tree, bench or paver, visit the Springbrook Foundation website at www.springbrookfoundation.org or call Malcolm Mitchell, Chair of the Foundation, at 763-350-1132 or malcolmmitchell@comcast.net.

Next Steps

The City will request bids in late summer to begin the construction phase of the SPRING project. Upon favorable acceptance of bids, an official groundbreaking event may be scheduled as early as this fall. For updates on the SPRING project, visit the Springbrook Nature Center website at www.springbrooknaturecenter.org.

Sports & Fitness

Sign Up Now!



4-Person Passing Football

Begins September 6
\$80 for 7 weeks



Fall Softball Leagues

Begins late August
\$385 Men’s League
\$400 Co-Ed League



Zumba

Mondays or Thursdays
\$36 for 6 weeks



Kettlebell

\$15 Intro Session
\$28 for 4 classes, \$39 for 6 classes or \$60 for 10 classes



Couple Cardio

Coming this fall! Check our website for details.

Walk For Hope



The 11th Annual Walk for Hope is an opportunity for Alexandra House supporters to come together to raise money and raise awareness around domestic and sexual violence. Speakers, music, health screenings, community partners, kids’ activities, and a beautiful course through Bunker Hills Regional Park make this an event to remember.

Sign up today to ensure you are a part of this moving and energizing event. Visit alexandrahouse.org.

Race Information

Date: Saturday, September 26
Time: Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. Race starts at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Bunker Hills Park, Pavilion #3
What: 5K Run / 2K Walk, Community Resource Fair, Kids’ Activities



Alexandra House’s mission is to empower victims of domestic and sexual violence, and to inspire social change through education, support and advocacy.